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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/104 of 4 December 2000, additional information has been submitted by the Government of Argentina (see sect. II below).

II. Replies received from Governments

[Original: Spanish]
[10 July 2001]

2. The Argentine Republic attaches priority importance to cooperation in the sphere of human rights, in order to strengthen economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights. In this respect, it promotes cooperation among Member States of the United Nations and between them and the Organization. In the same spirit, our country believes in the need for cooperation to strengthen the implementation of commitments undertaken in the field of human rights.

3. With the reform of the National Constitution in 1994, constitutional status was given to 11 international human rights instruments. Subsequently, by virtue of the procedure provided for in article 75, paragraph 22, of the National Constitution, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons was given constitutional status in Act No. 24.820 of 30 April 1997, in addition to the other instruments. As a result of the incorporation of these instruments in our Constitution, a series of obligations have arisen for the Argentine State. Some of them are common to several of these instruments, such as the obligation to submit reports to the monitoring bodies set up under the human rights treaties. In view of this obligation (article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 40 of the

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International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 19 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), the following activities should be promoted:

(a) Improvement in the human rights training of all law-enforcement officials, including police forces, prison staff, military personnel, lawyers, judges and legislators, at both the national and provincial level, in order to prepare them to give effect in the internal legal system to the rights recognized in the human rights instruments incorporated in article 75.22 of the National Constitution. In this respect, improvements should be made in the operation of the Federal Human Rights Bank, attached to the Subsecretariat for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights;

(b) Institutional support for the Federal Human Rights Council in order to strengthen the competence of provincial staff in human rights matters. Strengthening of focal points in the provinces in terms of training and allocation of resources;

(c) Institutional support for the establishment of a mechanism coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Religious Affairs (General Directorate for Human Rights) and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Subsecretariat for Human Rights), with the participation of all areas of government, in order to provide joint responses to the petitions or cases of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the reports of the various Human Rights Committees. In the latter case, non-governmental organizations and the Ombudsman should also participate;

(d) Under the coordination of the Subsecretariat for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, strengthening of decentralized institutions with responsibilities in the field of human rights, namely: National Institute for Indigenous Affairs; National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism; National Council for Women; National Council for Children and the Family; National Advisory Committee for the Integration of Disabled Persons; Prison representation; Secretariat for Criminal Policy and Prison Affairs; and Ombudsman.